

Four American Songs



Low Voice
and Piano

Elaine Hugh-Jones

Four American Songs

1 HELEN

Hilda Doolittle

All Greece hates the still eyes in the white face,
The lustre as of olives where she stands,
And the white hands.

(from:
“20th Century
Women’s Poetry”
pub. Faber)

All Greece reviles the wan face when she smiles,
Hating it deeper still when it grows wan and white,
Remembering past enchantments and past ills.

Greece sees unmoved God’s daughter, born of love,
The beauty of cold feet and slenderest knees,
Could love indeed the maid
Only if she were laid,
White ash among funereal Cypresses.

2 MEMBERS OF THE RESURRECTION

Emily Dickinson

Safe in their alabaster chambers,
Untouched by morning and untouched by noon,
Sleep the meek members of the resurrection,
Rafters of satin and roof of stone.

(from:
“Penguin
Modern
American
Verse”)

Light laughs the breeze in her castle of sunshine;
Babbles the bee in a stolid ear;
Pipe the sweet birds in an ignorant cadence, –
Ah, what sagacity perished here!

Grand go the years in the crescent above them;
Worlds scoop their arcs and firmaments row,
Diadems drop and Doges surrender,
Soundless as dots on a disk of snow.

Gather the stars if you wish it so,
Gather the songs and keep them.
Gather the faces of women,
Gather for keeping years and years,
And then ...
Open your hands, let go and say 'Goodbye,'
Let the stars and songs go,
Let the faces and years go,
Loosen your hands and say 'Goodbye.'

in the old deep sing-song of the sea
in the old going-on of that sing-song
in that old mama-mama-mama going on
of that nightlong daylong sleepsong
we look on we listen we lay by and hear
too many big bells too many long gongs
too many weepers over lost gone gold
too many laughs over light green gold
woven and changing in the wash and heave
moving on the bottoms winding in the waters
sending themselves with arms and voices
up in the old mama-mama-mama music
up into the whirl of spokes of light

(from:
"A Flock of
Words"
collected by
David Mackay
pub. Bodley Head)

Helen

Hilda Doolittle

Elaine Hugh-Jones

♩ = 60

f

Voice

All Greece hates the still eyes in the

Piano

mf sf sf

5

mf

Voice

white face. The lus - tre as of oli - ves_ where she

Pno

(mp)

9

mp

Voice

stands, and the white hands.

Pno

mp espress.

13

Voice

mf

All Greece re-

Pno

f *sf* *mf*

8^{vb} loco

16

Voice

mf

viles the wan face when she smiles Ha - ting it

Pno

f *mp* *dim.*

20

Voice

f

deep - er still when it grows wan and white,

Pno

f *sf* *poco stretto e cresc.*

23 *rit.* *mp*

Voice re-member-ing past en - chant - ments_ and past

Pno *rit.* *mp*

26 **Tempo I**

Voice ill.

Pno *espress.* *cresc.* *f*

30 *f* *dim.* *senza rit.*

Voice Greece sees un moved God's daugh - ter, born of love, *senza rit.*

Pno *sf* *dim.* *mp*

Ped.

Emily Dickinson

Members of the Resurrection

Elaine Hugh-Jones

Slow, but with movement ♩ = 66

Voice *mp* *mf*

Safe _____ in their al - a - bast - er cham - bers,

Piano *mp* *legatissimo* *mf*

5 *mp*

Voice un - touched by morn - ing and un - touched by noon,

Pno

9

Voice Sleep the meek mem - bers of the re - su - rec - tion,

Pno

12

Voice

Raft-er of sat-in and roof of stone.

Pno

espress.

16

Poco più mosso ($\text{♩} = 76$)

Voice

mp *mf*

Light laughs the breeze in her cast - le of sun- shine;

Pno

Poco più mosso ($\text{♩} = 76$)

mp *mf*

19

Voice

mf

babb - les the bee in a stol-id ear; Pipe the sweet birds in

Pno

dolce *mp*

22

Voice

ig - nor-ant cad-ence, Ah, what sa - ga - ci - ty

Pno

mp

24

Voice

mp

per - ished here!

Pno

p

26

Voice

mf *f*

Grand go the years in the cres - cent a-bove them;

Pno

mf *f*

Ped.

Elaine Hugh-Jones

$$mp \quad \begin{array}{c} \diagup \\ \diagdown \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \diagdown \\ \diagup \end{array}$$

6

Voice

mp

keep them. Gath - er the fac - es of wom - en,

Pno

pp

pp

8 **poco accel.** **rit.** **p**

Voice

Gath-er for keep-ing years and years, And then....

Pno

poco accel. **rit.**

11 **A tempo** **mp** **cresc.**

Voice

Op - en your hands, let go and say 'Good -

Pno

A tempo **mp** **cresc.**

Ped.

15 **poco accel.** **f** **ff** **poco allarg.**

Voice

bye' Let the stars and

Pno

poco accel. **f** **ff** **poco allarg.**

old deep sing-song

Carl Sandburg

Elaine Hugh-Jones

Con moto (♩ = 40)**mp**

Voice

Con moto (♩ = 40)

murmurando

pp

con ped.

in the old

4

Voice

deep sing-song of the sea in the old

Pno

7

Voice

mf

go-ing-on of that sing-song in that old ma-ma-ma-ma-ma

Pno

p pp

mp pp

mf

10 *mp*

Voice

go-ing - on__ of that night - long day - long sleep__ song we

Pno

13

Voice

look on we list - en we lay by and__ hear

Pno

pp

Ped.

17 *f*

Voice

too man - y big bells too__ man - y

Pno

f mf

20

Voice

long gongs too man - y weep - ers ov - er a

Pno

f

23

Voice

lost gone gold too man - y laughs ov - er light green gold

Pno

dim. *p* *mf*

26

Voice

mp (sempre à tempo) *cresc.*

wo - ven and chang - ing in the wash and

(sempre à tempo)

Pno

p *cresc.*



Elaine Hugh-Jones b. 1927

Elaine Hugh-Jones songs have recently been performed in recital by Roderick Williams, Elizabeth Watts, James Gilchrist and Diana Moore. In 2015 her songs made their Royal Opera House debut, performed in a lunchtime concert by mezzo-soprano, Fiona Kimm with David Cyrus at the piano. Her songs are finding an increasing audience, as singers become aware of her unique talents in setting poetry to music. She is particularly drawn to 20th century poets including Edward Thomas, Wilfred Owen and Walter de la Mare, but has also made very memorable settings of Shakespeare and American 19th century poets. Elaine has recently added settings of poems by A E Housman and Yeats to her list of works.

Elaine was born in London and grew by the Solway Firth, near Carlisle. She has enjoyed a busy career as a pianist, composer and teacher. Her keyboard training was with Dr. F. W. Wadeley, Harold Craxton and Julius Isserlis. In the post-war years, Elaine was an official accompanist for radio and television programmes with the BBC, work which she combined with teaching at Derby High School, where she was appointed Director of Music in 1949.

From 1956 to 83, she continued her radio (and latterly, television) work for the BBC in Birmingham whilst teaching at Kidderminster High School from 1955, and from 1963 at Malvern Girls' College and then at Malvern College.

Elaine Hugh-Jones has developed her work as a composer mostly over the last 30 years. The emphasis of her creativity has been in the vocal and choral category, in which there are to be found song-cycles, songs, choral music and a number of instrumental pieces, as well as songs with instrumental accompaniments. Much of her work has been broadcast by the BBC radio networks. She received lessons in composition from Lennox Berkeley and orchestration from John Joubert.

The tenor and *Swingle Singer* John Potter was instrumental in promoting Elaine's songs, introducing them to soprano, Dr Jane Manning, who has performed her songs in recital and on BBC Radio 3.

Elaine's first cycle of songs, *Eight Songs of Walter de la Mare* was written over a period of 21 years, the last song of the cycle, *The Raven's Tomb*, being added in 1989. The cycle has been broadcast several times on BBC Radio 3. Further cycles have followed including, *Songs of War*, settings Wilfred Owen poems and *Strange Journey*, settings of poems by Edward Thomas. Other notable song collections include *Six Songs of RS Thomas* and *A Cornford Cycle* - settings of Edwardian poet, Frances Cornford.

Elaine's songs have been championed by a range of musical organisations. Four of Elaine's songs were performed in the 2013 *English Song Weekend* at Ludlow by soprano Elizabeth Watts and pianist Iain Burnside. Elaine's songs have also received performances at *Celebrating English Song*, Tardebigge, where her *Songs of War* and world premiere of *High Flight* were recently included in a concert by James Gilchrist and Anna Tilbrook. The Welsh College of Music and Drama gave a concert consisting entirely of her music in December 1995 and gave a performance of her Christmas anthem, *Torches* in 2013. The University of Bangor also featured her music in a major concert in 2012.

Elaine's music is included in the archives of Welsh music in the Welsh National Library, Aberystwyth and also held at *Sound and Music UK*, the national agency for new music.

Elaine Hugh Jones is published by OUP, Caradoc Music Publishing and the Hildegard Publishing Company, Philadelphia. Her songs appear in Vol.3 and Vol. 5 of *A Century of English Song* published by Thames (Music Sales).

